



*Linda Cordes*

# TEST PREP Planning Kit

Everything You Need to Get a Jump Start On The 5 Smartest, Stress Free Steps for Math Test Prep.

## The 5 Steps

1. Teach students how to READ and UNDERSTAND math problems.
2. Teach students to use math test taking strategies.
3. Provide effective meaningful review and practice.
4. Teach students how to study outside of class.
5. Create a Math Test Success Environment.

Hello!

Linda here. I'm so happy to be assisting you with your TEST PREP this year.

Here are a few suggestions for how to get the most out of this TEST PREP Planning Kit.

**Are you a single, lone wolf teacher out there making a difference on your own? Yay for you! Here is what I suggest for you.**

First of all, get a like-minded teacher buddy/colleague to do this with you. Collaboration and dividing tasks are smart, effective ways to enjoy your important work! Follow these steps with your teacher buddy:

1. Take the pop quiz. It will give you a gauge on where you are and what you want to focus on the most.
2. Go through all the pages of this kit to become familiar with the contents.
3. View the REPLAY of the **Worth Your While TEST PREP** Webinar with your Buddy.  
<http://iteleseminar.com/81518376>
4. Teach BIG BANG Lesson #1 and Lesson #2.
5. Work with your buddy to find a great selection of problems for practice.
6. Select at least 3 FUN ways you will provide practice.
7. Decide what take home study products you will have students make in class.
8. Plan for a classroom makeover to spruce up the feel of calm, focused test taking!
9. Plan a FUN culminating activity that engages kids and parents if possible.

**Are you a cutting edge supportive administrator or coach? Yay for you! Here is what I suggest for you.**

1. First of all gather one or two like-minded teachers who you know you can rely on to get behind your efforts enthusiastically! They will set the positive ripple in motion to spread these good practices throughout the building.
2. Devote about 2 hours to view the REPLAY of the **Worth Your While TEST PREP** Webinar with your staff. Here is the link again. >>>> <http://iteleseminar.com/81518376> (Make sure your teachers take the pop quiz! Give them a copy of this kit too.)
3. Partner up your teachers in a way that makes sense for your situation. Your teachers will be following the directions above. (# 4 to 9)
4. Your job is to monitor their efforts. Have them give you a timeline of when they will teach the BIG BANG Lessons.

5. Plan to be there when for all or part of as many of those lessons as possible. Your role during these lessons is not to observe, but to actually pitch in and work with the kids too. (Kids and teachers love it when you do this!!!)
6. Your job is also to be the cheerleader/supporter/positive feedback person. It's easy to get judgemental when you are in classrooms. Think of the teachers as though they are your students. How can you best help them explore, try new things, and grow from the mistakes they have to experience to develop as master teachers?

You have everything you need here to get your students ready for the big math test just around the corner. You've got this! When you have questions or need some additional ideas and support, reach out!

### **Two ways to contact me:**

**Reach out to me here so we can find a good time to talk. Go to my scheduler.**

[http://www.vcita.com/v/7e179b8f0d9e8d79/online\\_scheduling?staff\\_id=e225d4048622ec57](http://www.vcita.com/v/7e179b8f0d9e8d79/online_scheduling?staff_id=e225d4048622ec57)

**Reach out to me with an email message. Go to my website.**

<http://www.redhotmath.com/contact-linda.html> **Fill out the contact form.**

Okay, be sure to let me know what else is helpful to you so you can get going on this!  
Remember to relax and have fun.

Go get those kids test ready!!!

Linda

PS I've included a copy of the Note taking Guide Book right after this message!

## Worth Your While TEST PREP

### Notes and Cheat Sheet!

*“Failing to plan is planning to fail.”*

#### Pop Quiz: Mark each item (T/F)

- My students regularly apply a strategy to read and understand problems.
- My students know and use specific test taking strategies.
- I know and use more than 3 different ways to provide review and practice.
- My students know 3 different ways to study outside of class.
- I purposefully create a classroom environment that supports math testing success.

#### Step 1 Teach students a process to read and understand math problems.

R3 CUBE is an acronym that means

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Some problem solving strategies for math are:

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BIG BANG Lesson # 1 has 3 steps:

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Ask Linda about modeling this lesson for you or the teachers in your building! >>>> [ASK LINDA](#)

**Step 2 Teach students specific math test taking tips and strategies.**

What I want to remember about "Smart Scratch Paper."

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BIG BANG Lesson #2 important ideas to remember are:

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Ask Linda about modeling this lesson too for you or the teachers in your building! >>>> [ASK LINDA](#)

R \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3 Practice and Review**

The key idea is \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_!

Four steps to follow for highly effective practice and review are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4 Teach students how to study outside of class.**

1. Study Buddy

2. Study Product(s)

3. Model and Practice study methods in class

Partner or Group

Self

**Step 5 Create Your Math Test Success Environment**

Ease \_\_\_\_\_ and promote \_\_\_\_\_ !

Physical

Emotional

Mental

Have your Game Plan in place to minimize distractions and maximize focus and alert thinking.

Do these things **before the testing**:

Do these things **during the testing**:

Ask Linda to send you the **TEST PREP PLANNING KIT.**

Enter a brief request here >>>> [CLICK!](#)

# **R<sup>3</sup> CUBES**

**R 1** **C**ircle the question

**R 2** **U**nderline key words  
and phrases

**R 3** **B**ox around numbers

**E** **E**stimate

**S** **S**trategy

# MATH PROBLEM SOLVING

## SUPER STRATEGIES

- Look for a pattern
- Make a table
- Work backward
- Guess and Check
- Make a list
- Write an equation
- Make a model
- Draw a picture
- Use logical reasoning



## Which Tips Work The Best For You?

**Pick the top two for you from the list below.**

### Tips on answering multiple choice Math questions:

1. Carefully read the instructions
2. Check that you have correctly rewritten the problem
3. *Clearly* write each step of the solution
4. Double check your math, especially your calculator entries
5. **Eliminate answers** you know aren't right.
6. **Read all the choices** before choosing your answer.
7. **If you are not sure or even clueless**, always take an educated guess and select an answer.
8. **Don't keep on changing your answer.** Usually your first choice is the right one, unless you misread the question.
9. **Don't Dilly Dally**  
If you get stuck on a problem move on and come back to it later.
10. **Other?** \_\_\_\_\_

# BIG BANG Lesson # 1

## How to Read and Understand Math Problems

Math Practice 1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

You will need:

A set of about 7 problems that represent the content and level of rigor your students will be solving on their big math test (copies for students to mark on printed in large font and a projected copy for them to view as you model)

Student partners identified

Large R3 CUBES poster and the Math Problem Solving Strategies displayed. (See the examples in this kit.)

Teacher Input:

**Display** a word problem for the class to view. Ask them to raise their hand if they have a strategy for reading and understanding word problems. Listen and acknowledge their responses. Then tell them you are going to teach them a method today called R3 CUBES. Show them the poster.

**Model** the strategy. Students observe as you walk them through the process by “thinking out loud.” Have student volunteers “read along with you” as you go through the first 3 steps. Move on to a second problem and model how to work with a partner on the process. Select a student volunteer to be your partner.

**Distribute** the printed copies and instruct the students to work with a partner to repeat the process on the same two problems you just modeled.

**Circulate** and observe what students are doing. Your job here is to ensure students are on task and to preselect work to share.

**Recapture** the class attention and share work of several partner groups.

**Ask** questions similar to:

- On a scale of 1 to 5 (students raise hands to show the number with their fingers and thumb) how easy was this to do? (Do NOT be discouraged by low ratings! Remember change is hard for kids too!! Perseverance! )
- How did it help you to read the problem 3 times?
- Did it help you to estimate on either problem?
- What strategies would help on #1 ..... On #2?

**Listen** to student responses and give additional support. Congratulate them for taking on a new math process!

**Direct** students to work with their partner, and do two more problems

**Circulate** and monitor students again.

**Recapture** the class and repeat the questioning process outlined above.

**Extend** the questioning by asking students what it would look like if they used the process on their own.

Listen to responses and use probing questions to elicit deeper understanding. Ask for a student volunteer to model what it would look like to do the process as an individual.

**Allow** students to give the volunteer positive feedback on what they did well. Ask the volunteer to reflect on what they need to do to get better at the process.

**Check** for understanding by giving students a problem to mark on their own.

\* You can have the students solve the problems or not. If you want them to focus on the R3 CUBES strategy, they can take the problems home to work. Or you can allow class time later to go back and solve the problems. Many times when students are allowed to “not solve” the problems, they do so anyway! When this happens it’s great to ask them “Why did you solve them anyway?” They usually tell you because it was easy once they understood and knew what strategy to use. What a powerful aha for them!!

# BIG BANG Lesson # 2

## How to Identify and Use Math Specific Test Taking Strategies

### You will need:

Projected copy of some commonly used math test taking strategies (One is provided in this kit.)

Large post it or poster size paper and colorful markers for the class list you create

A set of 3 or more problems for students to practice the test taking strategies

### Teacher Input:

**Display** the commonly used math test taking strategies.

**Direct** students to select the top 4 strategies they use or that they think would be the best for them to use. (They can just write down the numbers of the strategies they select. )

**Select** four students. One will be a recorder. Two will help you count. One will be the artist.

**Collect** the responses in the following way. Take each strategy one by one and ask students to raise their hand if they selected it. You and your counting helpers report to your recorder. The recorder writes the count next to the strategy so the class can see it.

**Direct** students to identify the top five or six strategies that the class selected by looking for the highest recorded numbers. The artist then writes them on the large class poster. The rest of the students write them in their math notebooks.

**Discuss** each of the class strategies. Ask students questions such as:

- What does it look like when you use this strategy?
- When would you use this strategy?

**Direct** students to work the set of practice questions using the class test taking strategies.

**Circulate** to observe how students are using the strategies. Preselect students who will share in your follow up questioning.

**Recapture** the class attention. Go through the questions and elicit correct answers.

**Question** students about the use of the test taking strategies:

- What test taking strategies did you use?
- Were there any you did not use? Why?
- Thumbs up/down if using the strategies helped you today.

\* Leave the poster in a visible spot. Continue to call student attention to the poster in future lessons and ask them the same or similar questions as above.

## Resources for Finding Great Test PREP Questions

PARCC items in action <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

Sample Smarter Balanced questions

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/sample-questions/>

Specific math grade and skills <https://www.ixl.com/math/>

More specific to grade and skill <http://www.ck12.org/>

Math MAP Attacks Download and Print (not free, but low priced!)

These are grade 6-8 Math Prep Lessons I created for Missouri.

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Math-Test-Prep-Math-MAP-Attack-Grades-6-7-8-439513>

Also check your state and other state Department of Education sites to find released and sample items.

## Resources for Online GAMES and PRACTICE

<http://www.math-play.com/>

<http://www.mathplayground.com/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html>

## **Resources to MAKE Your Own Games**

<https://jeopardylabs.com/>

<http://resources.oswego.org/games/>

<http://www.learn-with-math-games.com/math-board-game.html>

## **Resources to CREATE and PUBLISH Test Prep Books**

<http://www.wordfaire.com/>

<http://www.redjumper.net/bookcreator/>

<https://www.tikatok.com/>

## **Online STUDY BUDDIES**

<http://www.hippocampus.org/>

<http://www.virtualnerd.com/>

<https://www.skooli.com/math-tutor>